

JSC workers earn top NASA procurement awards

JSC Director George Abbey and Business and Information Systems Director Jane Stearns presented NASA's highest procurement awards to three JSC employees in January.

The annual procurement awards recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to procurement efforts throughout the agency. JSC employees were selected in three of eight categories.

Greg Della Longa was selected as Contract Manager of the Year for his ability to tackle agency initiatives in the area of completion

form contracts, while simultaneously managing an already large and diverse workload. Della Longa also developed and led a seminar on completion-form contracting that was attended by more than 800 JSC and contractor management personnel.

Marie Kliment was selected as Small Purchase Specialist of the year for her dedication in managing an extremely heavy workload in processing purchase requests as well as her critical role in the establishment of JSC's BankCard purchasing program.

Randy Gish was selected as Procurement

Supervisor of the Year for his accomplishments in managing the business team for the Space Flight Operations Contract resulting in a timely award of the crucial multi-billion dollar agency contract. According to the nomination, Gish's extreme personal commitment to this effort was paramount to its success.

In personal letters to each award recipient, NASA Associate Administrator for Procurement Dee Lee thanked each of the



Della Longa



Kliment



Gish

winners for their personal commitment and commended their contributions as being critical to accomplishing agency procurement goals.

MCC open to workers during STS-82 mission

The Mission Control Center viewing room will be open for JSC and contractor badged employees and their families during portions of the STS-82 mission.

Employees will be allowed to visit the MCC from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, 8-12 p.m. Feb.17, 5-7 p.m. Feb. 18 and 4:30-6:30 p.m. Feb. 19 and 20.

The viewing room will open at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Feb. 14,15 and 16 for the Hubble Space Telescope capture and the four space walks. It will remain open on those days as attendance warrants.

Employees must wear their badges and escort family members through the lobby of Bldg. 30 South. Children under five will not be permitted. No flash photography or loud talking will be permitted at any time. Because of the dynamic nature of shuttle missions, viewing hours may be changed or canceled without notice.

For the latest information on the schedule, call the Employee Information Service at x36765.

For information on the mission visit the shuttle home page at: <http://shuttle.nasa.gov>

Workers retire, take bonus across center

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Lapko, Wayne Low, Nina Maxey, Donna McAllister, Raymond Meraz, Kochetia Morman, Todd Phillips, Laura Pusch, Richard Regenburgh, Maria Salmones, John Smith, Rachel Soria, Clarence Stanley, Jane Stearns, Wallace Stewart, Robin Stuart, Paul Stull, Farris Tabor, Virginia Thompson, James Villarreal, Robert Voigt and Carol Young.

Flight Crew Operations Directorate: Anna Jean Ellis and Wanda Harris.

Mission Operations Directorate: Connie Dunaway, Paula Garza, Georgie Huepers, Michael Jones, Helen Meester, Edward Pavelka and Caroline Qualls.

Engineering Directorate: Jesse Adkins, Paul Brandenburger, Jimmy Cawthorn, Philip Glynn, Georgia Hurst, Paul Kramer, Shirley Newsom, Leon Pringle and Robert White.

Technology Transfer and Commercialization Office: Grady Henderson.

Center Operations Directorate: Robert Bobola, Nita Bouldin, William Clark, Clarke Covington, Cecil Dorsey, Patti Hunter, Joe Olivarez, Shirley Randolph, Maxine Sapp and Julia Watkins.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer: Wilma Bayless, Byron Boeckel, Lucy Heiskala, Dorothy Kirsch, Barbara McClenan and Sheeree Wirt.

Space Shuttle Program Office: Harold Battaglia, Albert Branscomb, Fredrick Burns, David DeAtkine, Jimmie Gibbons, Edwin Hoskins, Ryborn Kirby, William Leverich, Anna Mathews, Richard Mathews, Don McCutchen, David Miao, Wayne Owens, Fredrick Peters, Emmett Shepard and Kenneth Suit.

Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance Directorate: Carole Boney, Patricia Goldstein, Charles Harlan, Sarah Lai and Bobby Martin.

Space Station Program Office: Arthur Bond, Nelson Brown, Charles Chassey, Josephine Jue, Tony Redding and William Trammel.

White Sands Test Facility: Lynda McNeely and William Waldrup

Space and Life Sciences Directorate: Robert MacDonald and Carmelo Sustaita.

Space Operations: Stephen Bales.

EVA Project Office: Harold McMann.

Phase One Program Office: F.W. Brizzolara.



RODEO DAYS—Rodeo Clown Patrick Kelly helps teach JSC employees how to line dance during lunch at the Bldg. 3 cafeteria last week. Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo volunteers taught line dancing and gave seminars on cowboy folklore while the Lone Star Cowboys entertained with traditional country and western music. The volunteers also spent time at the JSC Child Care Center teaching the children about rodeo life and animals.

JSC Photos 97-01517, 97-01516
by Karen Schmidt and Steve Candler

Mir 23 crew set to launch with German researcher

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direction you want to go. It is very free and you feel graceful up here."

Linenger describes his days on Mir as pretty normal with the most memorable experience being mornings.

"A big alarm goes off in the morning and it is not unlike the old fashioned clanging alarm," said Linenger. "It definitely wakes you up. We come in, eat some breakfast and then I am off running experiments. I do maybe three or four different experiments a day and go back and check on things. For example, we have a big oven going that is melting metal and I need to check on that periodically throughout the day and look at the data. Twice a day we have to exercise. It is usually on a treadmill or on a bicycle. That is very important to keep bone and muscle strength up. And then you wash up, kind of a sponge bath, with a wet towel. It seems adequate. We have our lunch and dinner together and in the evenings we have a little bit of time, we try to look out the window. It has been spectacular."

Linenger's days have been filled with setting up and activating new experiments.

"On Mir we take the urine we produce and we turn that into water and then we split the water into hydrogen and oxygen," Linenger said. "We use a vacuum pump and pump that overboard and we end up breathing the oxygen. It is a very closed-loop system. I was doing air sampling, I was doing surface sampling, growing some cultures in petri dishes to see how clean the air is and how good the atmosphere is. There are lot of smart people down on Earth that have thought these things out and I am privileged to carry out their work for them."

The Standard Interface Glovebox was installed successfully in the Priroda module on Jan 23. During Linenger's mission, the unit will be used to provide an air-tight, contamination-free work area for plant fixation. The radiation dosimetry investigation was initiated on Jan 29. This experiment uses thermoluminescent dosimeters to characterize

the Mir's radiation environment. The Microgravity Liquid Metal Diffusion experiment is progressing nominally. This experiment evaluates material dynamics in space.

Linenger said working with the Russians now will set the stage for working together on the International Space Station.

"These are the first steps. You have to do things incrementally and this is the first increment," said Linenger. "At this point we are getting pretty good. The shuttle launch that I went up on was flawless. Everything went as planned so the hard work is starting to pay off and I think we can move to the next step with the International Space Station where we start bringing in more and more partners."

In Russia, preparations continue for the scheduled Monday launch of the Mir 23 crew on a Soyuz rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Two Russians and a German researcher will dock with Mir on Wednesday to begin a three-week handover from the current Russian cosmonaut crew. Commander Vasily Tsibliev and Flight Engineer Alexander Lazutkin will join Linenger for their long duration flight, while Korzun and Kaleri prepare to return to Earth on March 2 with German cosmonaut researcher Reinhold Ewald, who will complete three weeks of experiments on Mir. At mid-week, the Mir inhabitants were expected to undock the Progress vehicle to make room for the upcoming Soyuz spacecraft.

Once the Mir 23 crew bids the Mir 22 cosmonauts and German researcher farewell, preparations will begin for the March space walk by Linenger and Tsibliev.

"It should be a great thrill," Linenger said about the space walk. "I have had a lot of training. I am going to be using the Russian suit and go out with one of my Russian colleagues. We are going to be working on the exterior part of the Mir without a vehicle close by. We have to be real careful, similar to a mountain climber, you have to make sure you are always attached should you loose your grip. It should be a great space walk."

NASA calls for software award submissions

NASA's Office of Safety and Mission Assurance, as co-sponsor with NASA's Inventions and Contributions Board, is calling for submissions for the 1997 NASA Software of the Year Award to give recognition to software developed and owned by NASA.

Last year, the competition resulted in nearly \$200,000 being awarded. The winning teams in 1996, Linked Winds Interactive Data System from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and Tetrahedral Unstructured Software System from the Langley Research Center, each received a prize of \$40,000.

Information about these and the other finalists from 1996 is available at:

<http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/codei/swy96win.html>

The award, which will include a trophy, a certificate signed by the NASA administrator, and a monetary award of up to \$100,000, will be presented to authors of software in which NASA has an intellectual property interest, which has been supported, adopted, sponsored, or used by NASA, and which is significant to the NASA mission.

Software programs must have been legally disseminated as commercial-grade, not alpha or beta phase, products to the public by NASA beginning within the last three years.

Entries will be judged by a NASA panel comprised of software development experts from all NASA centers and JPL. After its review, the panel will submit its selection to the ICB. The ICB may recommend a monetary award of up to \$100,000 for the winner depending on the value of the contribution to government and industry. The award will be presented by NASA officials later in the year.

NASA Form 1329, CB Award Evaluation Questionnaire, must be filled out for each entry. Copies of the software, sample applications and data, and descriptive documentation of the package should be included, in addition to evidence demonstrating the impact and degree of innovation and suitability of the entry. This information will be the primary data used by the panel in recommending awards.

Additional inquiries on award criteria should be made through the NASA Space Act Awards Liaison Officer at any NASA center or through the ICB. Center contact names are available by phoning (202) 358-2468. Entries and supporting material must be submitted to these NASA offices no later than April 18. Each center will then forward to the ICB the center's top selection by May 16.

Dietitian to discuss weight control pills

JSC's Total Health Program will sponsor a diet seminar from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Feb. 20 in the Bldg. 30 Auditorium.

Doctor of Public Health and Registered Dietitian Rebecca Reeves will discuss "The Truth About Diet Pills." This distinguished scholar and scientist is recognized as an expert in the use of drugs for the treatment of obesity and weight control.

Reeves is the assistant director of the Behavioral Medicine Research Center of the Baylor College of Medicine. She is serving as the coordinator for the American Dietetic Association and previously has served as an editor for the DeBakey Heart Center and the Behavioral Medical Abstracts. She has been a research dietitian, public health nutritionist and clinical dietitian. She has received numerous honors during her career, including Fellow of the American Dietetic Association, Texas Distinguished Dietitian, Who's Who in the South and Southwest, and Outstanding Young Woman of America. Reeves has authored or co-authored 20 publications and has presented more than 30 papers to medical and scientific organizations.

For more information on the seminar call Larry Wier at x30301.